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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/603,103	06/23/2003	Linda J. Wittenrich	01-01176NP	1650
7590 12/24/2003		EXAMINER		
Joseph N. Breaux			AVILA, STEPHEN P	
Suite A 10630 N. Oak Hills Pkwy.			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Baton Rouge, LA 70810			3617	
			DATE MAILED: 12/24/2003	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary Examin r	c 4 3	Application No.	Applicant(s)			
Examin Part Unit		1 —				
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheat with the correspondence address − Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extended of time may be available under the provisions of 3 °C FR 1.136(). In an event, however, may a reply be timely filed when \$20'c, \$00'c, \$10'c, \$1	Office Action Summary					
The MALLNG DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address = Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MALLING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Eaterclose of time may be available under the proximator of 3 CPR 113(6). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filled If the period for reply a periodic above is less attention (30 CPR 113(6)). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filled If the period for reply a periodic above is less attention to 13 CPR 113(6). If the period for reply is a periodic above, the miscinan of 30 CPR 113(6). If the period for reply is periodic above, the miscinan staticty period vide give judy and ville give; 25(6) MONTP16 from the malling date of this communication. If the period for reply is periodic above, the miscinan staticty period vide give, give and vide give; 25(6) MONTP16 from the malling date of this communication. If the period for reply is periodic above, the miscinan staticty period vide give and vide give and vide give and the communication of the communication. Application is periodic to the continuation of the communication						
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THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Ederations of time may be available under the provision of 37 CPR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be limitly flied after SIX (6) MCRITISE from the mailing date of this communication. If NO period for reply is predicted above, the maximus activates predicted to the statistics of which control in the mailing date of this communication. Failure to reply within the self or extended period for reply villable the statistics of this communication. Failure to reply villable the self of the communication. Failure to reply villable the self of the communication of the communication to become ABANDONED (38 U.S.C. § 133). Responsive to communication(s) filled on 23 June 2003. Status 1) Responsive to communication(s) filled on 23 June 2003. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 1 Is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) is/are repected to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 9) The drawing(s) field on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Application Application are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 9) The drawing(s) field on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 9) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). 3) All b) Some * O) None of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). 10) Ac						
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1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phillips in view of Fuller et al in view of Martin. Phillips disclose the basic claimed structure including a float tube cover 12 for use with an inflated resilient ring shaped tube 10, the cover designed to stretch around an exterior of the tube, the cover provided with an attaching lacing 18, and one or more pockets 56 for storing items for use while engaged in tubing on a body of water. Not disclosed by Phillips are attaching clasps and a hand leash. Fuller et al teach clasps 17. Martin teaches a hand leash 52. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the cover of Phillips to be attached with clasps as taught by Fuller et al for ease of use. Additionally, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the device of Phillips with a hand leash which attaches to a clasp as taught by Martin for improved user safety.
- 3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Wood shows a connector. Farmer shows a float. Evans shows a clasp for a cover.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Avila whose telephone number is 703-308-

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2578. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 8 AM to 4 PM (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Samuel J. Morano can be reached on 703-308-0230. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

Stephen Avila Primary Examiner

Art Unit 3617
